**JOINING TOGETHER IN SERVICE**

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Welcome

Song: SNC 212 “Spirit Song”

Responsive Reading

As followers of Jesus Christ,
living in this world—
which some seek to control,
and others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust:

**Our world belongs to God!**

**We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.
As covenant partners,
set free for joyful obedience,
we offer our hearts and lives
to do God’s work in the world.**

With tempered impatience,
eager to see injustice ended,

 **we expect the Day of the Lord.
We are confident
that the light
which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth
when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Our world belongs to you.**

Song: "Will You Come and Follow Me” SANC 267

Responsive Reading

In our world,
where many journey alone,
nameless in the bustling crowd,
Satan and his evil forces
seek whom they may scatter and isolate;

**but God, by his gracious choosing in Christ,
gathers a new community—
those who by God’s gift
put their trust in Christ.**

The church is the fellowship of those
who confess Jesus as Lord.

**She is the bride of Christ,
his chosen partner,
loved by Jesus and loving him:
delighting in his presence,
seeking him in prayer—
silent before the mystery of his love.**

—"Our World Belongs to God," par. 34, 35

A Minute of silent prayer

Responsive Reading

Joining the mission of God,
the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom

**to call everyone to know and follow Christ
and to proclaim to all
the assurance that in the name of Jesus
there is forgiveness of sin
and new life for all who repent and believe.**

The Spirit calls all members
to embrace God’s mission

**in their neighborhoods
and in the world:
to feed the hungry,
bring water to the thirsty,
welcome the stranger,
clothe the naked,
care for the sick,
and free the prisoner.
We repent of leaving this work to a few,
for this mission is central to our being.**

In a world estranged from God,
where happiness and peace are offered in many names
and millions face confusing choices,

**we witness—
with respect for followers of other ways—
to the only one in whose name salvation is found:
Jesus Christ.
In Jesus, God reconciles the world to himself.
God loves all creation;
his compassion knows no bounds.**

—"Our World Belongs to God, par. 41, 42

Song PsH 545 “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Scripture Reading: Numbers 27:12-23

Meditation

Song “If You and I Believe in Christ” SNC 274

Commissioning

You go out into the world in the name of the Lord and on behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ. We bless you as our representatives who will witness in word and deed to the majesty of God and the wonder of the gospel.

Do you accept our blessing and promise to be faithful to the calling you have received? If so, please say “Amen.”

May God, our heavenly Father, who has given you this wonderful opportunity and privilege, enlighten, strengthen, and govern you by his Word and Spirit that you may serve faithfully and fruitfully to the glory of his name and the coming of the kingdom of his Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song: "Here I Am, Lord " SANC 268

Go in peace, and go with power